



Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Ref: B14/0630

Senator Chris Back
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

I write to correct the answer provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in response to 'Question on Notice No 49: Provision of equipment – ministerial', of the 14 to 26 February 2014 Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Budget Estimates Hearing.

The question asked was 'Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item'.

In the response, DVA incorrectly advised it had issued 194 iPads to staff at a cost of \$159,274. The incorrect figure was provided due to human error, and should have been 77 at a cost of \$63,217.

The correct response to 'Question on Notice No 49: Provision of equipment – ministerial' is enclosed for your information.

I take very seriously the provision of any incorrect information to the Parliament. I have asked the Secretary of the Department to reinforce with all concerned the need to be accurate with the provision of information to the Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON

Encl

24 JUL 2014

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Additional Budget Estimates 2013 - 14; 26 February 2014
Answers to questions on notice from Department of Veterans' Affairs

Question 49

Outcome All: Program General DVA
Topic: Provision of equipment - ministerial
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

Answer

Electronic equipment is provided to department/agency staff, based on their business requirements.

Ongoing costs for phone and data plans and usage associated with mobile phones, blackberries and wireless broadband services for iPads and Laptops are set in accordance with Whole of Government panel pricing arrangements. The current cost for each device type across the whole of the agency, including the Minister and his office, is as follows:

Device	Total Number	Total Purchase Cost (excl GST)	Item Ongoing Costs	Total Ongoing Cost (2013-14 to end Feb 2014) (excl GST)
Mobile Phone	382	\$86,121.90 (ie \$225.45 per device)	\$5.00 per month, plus call & SMS costs	\$40,195
Blackberry	83	\$47,158.94 (ie \$568.18 per device)	\$34.95 per month, plus call & SMS costs and excess data charges	\$43,983
iPads	77	\$63,217.00 (ie \$821.00 per device)	\$35.00 per month, plus excess data charges	iPad services included as part of the Wireless Broadband costs
Wireless Broadband (includes iPad services)	102	There was no cost for the Wireless Broadband 4G cards	\$35.00 per month, plus excess data charges	\$61,101

To provide a more detailed breakdown of these costs for each individual device and previous years running costs would involve considerable time and effort and be too resource intensive.